

Col. Penkovsky And His Many Friends

THE BIGGEST SPY SCANDAL in Russia since the war broadened and deepened last week—and the question of where it might end, and what its final toll might be among Soviet leaders, was providing both the Soviet public and Western Kremlinologists with a fascinating mystery.

MARSHAL SERGEI S. VARENTSOV, a top Soviet rocket expert, was revealed to have been bounced from his post as Red Army artillery chief and stripped of his rank. Reason: links with the late Col. Oleg Penkovsky, executed last month on charges of spying for the West. At the same time, the government newspaper *Izvestia* said that Maj. Gen. A. R. Pozovny, chief of political intelligence for air and missile forces, has been severely disciplined, along with other officers and scientific workers. The charge: leaking information to Penkovsky.

PENKOVSKY'S WEB, however, spread more widely. Gen. Ivan Serov, formerly secret police chief and more recently head of the armed forces' intelligence, was reportedly a

close friend of Penkovsky. Gen. Serov hasn't been seen since Penkovsky's arrest. Serov's boss, Marshal Matvei V. Zakharov, was replaced in April as Chief of Staff of all Soviet forces. Rumors are current that Penkovsky showered gifts on the daughters of Frol Kozlov, top aide to Premier Khrushchev. Other top-ranking Reds, in and out of the armed forces, were also being linked with Penkovsky, whose arrest last December had triggered a mass recall of Soviet intelligence officers for "consultations."

AS ARTILLERY CHIEF, Varentsov was one of the loudest Soviet rocket-rattlers in speeches threatening the West with nuclear retaliation. He also was an alternate member of the Central Committee of the Communist party, a Hero of the Soviet Union, holder of three Orders of Lenin.

A MAJOR CAMPAIGN to discourage Soviet citizens from contact with foreigners has already been pegged to the Penkovsky case. And now the colonel's many friends are probably wishing they had picked even their Soviet associates more carefully.